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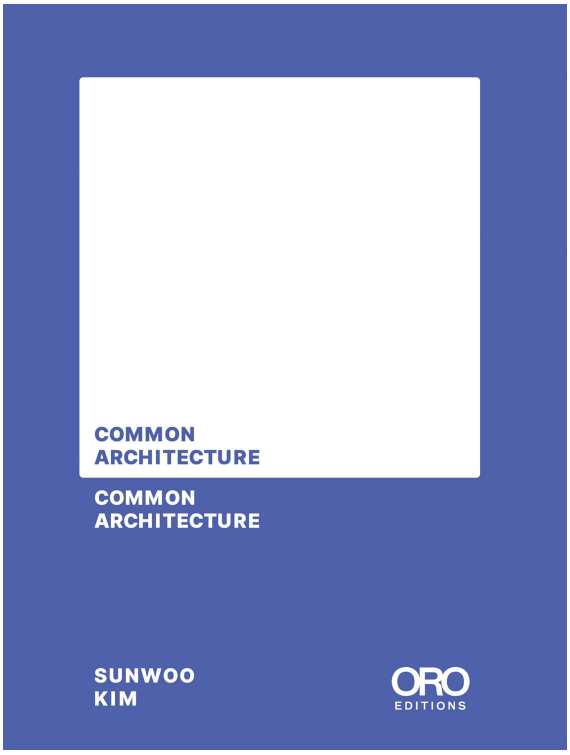

Common Architecture

Sunwoo Kim

ISBN	9781961856974
Publisher	ORO Editions
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive
Size	210 mm x 148 mm
Pages	120 Pages
Illustrations	120 color
Price	£22.95

- For architecture students, designers practicing architecture, architects and potential clients who are looking to work with architects
- Highlighting that this was not written by someone from academia but a practicing architect with a particular interest in establishing a rationale behind design. This aspect illustrates how practicing architects should view and critically reexamine the design process in everyday practice for a more consistent rationale behind the design itself
- Due to the second point above, it was inevitable to research the historical and theoretical background of architecture to extrapolate core concepts to achieve the goal. To meaningfully research on the suitable type of rationale for the architectural design

What is the common value of architecture? The first description that comes to mind is: something normal, ordinary, or rational. These keywords are pointing toward the opposite of newness. A brave jump of logic would make out that architecture does not need to call for newness. On the contrary, one must admit that other fields of design and art in fact need to be attracted to newness and the endeavours themselves are meaningful. But architecture has always been unique because it does not exclusively belong to either art or technology, but requires enormous amounts of coordination with various consultants to make one building work in addition to what we call “design.” This unique character of architecture demands commonness rather than newness.

Born into a family of architects, **Sunwoo Kim** earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Seoul and a Master's from the Yale School of Architecture, where he was profoundly influenced by Peter Eisenman’s pedagogy. His professional journey has taken him from Soltozibin Architects in Seoul to SOM in Chicago, and now to his current role as a project manager at Butler Armsden Architects in San Francisco. Through these experiences, he has developed a conviction that architects must go beyond simply constructing beautifully designed structures; but must also engage in building a value system around architecture to foster more meaningful and constructive discussions within the field.







Published 14th Oct 2025